

East Texas Historical Journal

Volume 16 | Issue 2

Article 12

10-1978

Book Notes

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Tell us how this article helped you.

Recommended Citation

(1978) "Book Notes," *East Texas Historical Journal*: Vol. 16: Iss. 2, Article 12.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol16/iss2/12>

This Book Note is brought to you for free and open access by SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in East Texas Historical Journal by an authorized administrator of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

BOOK NOTES

Hood's Texas Brigade: A Compendium, written by Colonel Harold B. Simpson (Hill Junior College Press, P.O. Box 619, Hillsboro, Texas, 76645, \$12.50), is the fourth and last volume of Colonel Simpson's epic *History of Hood's Texas Brigade*. Volume One (*Hood's Texas Brigade in Poetry and Song*) was published in 1968; Volume Two (*Hood's Texas Brigade: Lee's Grenadier Guard*) in 1970; and Volume Three (*Hood's Texas Brigade in Reunion and Memory*) in 1972. The four volumes comprise the most extensive history of a brigade in American history—over 1,800 pages, hundreds of informative and reference notes, 340 photographs and numerous charts and maps.

Hood's Texas Brigade, one of the outstanding brigades in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, was comprised of the 1st, 4th and 5th Texas Volunteer Infantry Regiments, the 3rd Arkansas and 18th Georgia Infantry Regiments and the Infantry Battalion (8 companies) of Hampton's South Carolina Legion. The three Texas Regiments formed the cornerstone of the Brigade, serving in it from the beginning of the war to Appomattox. The other regiments and the battalion served with the Brigade at various times during the war. Reilly's Battery (Co. D), 1st North Carolina Artillery Battery supported the Brigade from 2nd Manassas to Gettysburg.

There were 7,268 men assigned to Hood's Texas Brigade during the war; of this number over 4,300 were Texans. At Appomattox only 496 men of the three Texas Regiments were present to lay down their arms, less than 12 percent of those who had served in the Brigade during the war. Three hundred or about 7 percent of the men assigned to the three Texas Regiments served the entire war.

Hood's Texas Brigade: A Compendium is divided into four parts. Part One contains the rosters and service records of all 7,268 men who were members of the Brigade. Brigade and Regimental Headquarters Rosters are included as well as those of the sixty-one companies. Part Two is comprised of 147 photographs of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates who served in the Brigade. Part Three, "Statistical Charts and Summaries," is composed of casualty and loss charts by battle and by disease, and Part Four, entitled "Brigade Trivia," provides hundreds of interesting human relations episodes and facts in the colorful history of the Brigade and its men.

Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945, by John J.-G. Blumenson (American Association for State and Local History, 1400 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee, 37203, \$6.75, \$4.50 to AASLH members), answers a long-felt need in a unique manner. It allows the reader to visually associate real buildings with its 214 photographs and to identify architectural styles, elements, and orders. No other book does this.

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, architectural writer and critic of global renown, notes in his foreword that after recognizing these styles "you will be capable of making your own value judgments; I need scarcely add that sound value judgments are essential if in the end you want to plead for the preservation of the best."

What architectural styles are found in your neighborhood—Georgian, prairie, international, Spanish, Colonial revival? Have you ever been intrigued by a beautiful building and wondered when it was built, or how to describe it, or what combinations of elements were used in it?

More a glove compartment or top-of-the-desk book than a coffee table volume, *Identifying American Architecture* answers such questions with a text kept to a minimum. The book was designed to be used—to be carried about and kept handy and referred to often.

Identifying American Architecture has three sections: styles, index, and a pictorial glossary. The styles section uses three or four exterior views for each of the 39 styles; the

sixteen-page index is printed on contrasting paper in large type; and the extensive pictorial glossary provides a closer look at many different roofs, porches, wall finishes, doors, windows, and so forth. Every photograph is keyed to an explanatory legend by small numbered dots pointing out characteristic features.

Treasure, People, Ships and Dreams, a joint publication of The Institute of Texas Cultures of The University of Texas at San Antonio and the Texas Antiquities Committee (7.95), was written by Dr. John Davis, Director of Research at the Institute. From 16th century Spanish documents, Davis was able to piece together the story of the ships' passengers, the wreck and the incredible ordeal faced by the survivors. The result is a unique insight into the Spanish Empire and Colonial Mexico.

Artifacts recovered from the sunken ships are presented in full color photographs. In addition to gold ingots and silver coins, the archeologists discovered the oldest known astrolabe—a navigational instrument—in the western hemisphere and several tons of ship's riggings, including cannons, anchors and a portion of a ship's keel.

More than 70 color illustrations and photographs illustrate the 75-page narrative. The book sells for \$7.95 (Texas residents should add \$.40 sales tax) and can be ordered from the Institute at P.O. Box 1226, San Antonio, Texas, 78294.

The Swiss Texans, a publication of The Institute of Texan Cultures of The University of Texas at San Antonio, is a careful compilation of the effect these European immigrants had on the history of the state.

A small volume—23 pages with numerous illustrations—*The Swiss Texans* sells for \$2.00. It is available not only to Americans of Swiss descent or to Texana scholars, but also to the general public and school children. It provides new insights into state history and tells the story of a people often ignored by standard Texas history textbooks.

San Antonio de Bexar, by William Corner (Graphic Arts, 718 North Cherry Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78202, \$12.50), was the first guide ever written about the city, and today, almost one hundred years since it was published, remains the "bible" for historians and researchers and a delight to all those who enjoy San Antonio's turbulent and colorful past. It is history in its most entertaining form.

Published in 1890, *San Antonio de Bexar* is a fountain of information on the "fastest growing city in the Southwest." William Corner, who owned a bookstore in the shadow of the Alamo, was a natural storyteller, historian, and chronicler. He traced the coming of the Spaniards, explored the mission ruins, drew maps of those great architectural monuments, and wrote a separate chapter on the bloody events of the Alamo. He interviewed Madame Candelaria.

Corner talked with people who knew Austin and the Bowie Brothers. He socialized with Rangers Rip Ford and Jack Hayes, interviewed early German and French settlers who had arrived in the 1820s, 1830s, and 1840s; and researched the original Spanish Archives with Bishop Neraz, who helped with translations.

Corner wrote of The River, its Acequias, and the political history of the San Antonio Water Works. He listed Charters of the City, along with its Mayors.

The illustrations, treasures too, were done by L. Cotton, a reporter-artist who settled in San Antonio long enough to leave some of the finest on-the-scene drawings to be had. Advertisements that have more sales appeal than most ads of today enhance the historical value of Corner's guide.

San Antonio de Bexar had become a collector's book prized by historians and guarded on the rare book shelves of libraries. It is being reprinted today for the enjoyment and

information jammed between its covers, as William Corner's guide should not be a "rare book" but in open stacks and in bookstores for everyone interested in this "story city" San Antonio de Bexar.

In Search of Butch Cassidy (University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma, 73019, \$9.95), by Larry Pointer, asks Who was Butch Cassidy? He was born Robert LeRoy Parker in 1866 in Utah. And, as everyone knows, after years of operating with a sometime gang of outlaws known as the Wild Bunch, he and the Sundance Kid escaped to South America, only to die in a 1908 shootout with a Bolivian cavalry troop.

But did he die? Some say that he didn't die in Bolivia but returned to live out a quiet life in Spokane, Washington, where he died peacefully in 1937. In interviews with the author, scores of his friends and relatives and their descendants in Wyoming, Utah, and Washington concurred, claiming that Butch Cassidy had returned from Bolivia and had lived out the remainder of his life in Spokane under the alias William T. Phillips.

In 1934 William T. Phillips wrote an unpublished manuscript, an (auto)-biography of Butch Cassidy, "The Bandit Invincible, the Story of Butch Cassidy." Larry Pointer, marshalling an overwhelming amount of evidence, is convinced that William T. Phillips and Butch Cassidy were the same man. The details of his life, though not ending spectacularly in a Bolivian shootout, are more fascinating than the until-now accepted version of the outlaw's life.

There was a shootout with the Bolivian cavalry, but according to Butch (Phillips), he was able to escape under the cover of darkness, sadly leaving behind his longtime friend, the Sundance Kid, dead.

Then came Paris, a minor bit of face-lifting, Michigan, marriage, Arizona, Mexico with perhaps a tour as a sharpshooter for Pancho Villa, Alaska, and at last the life of a businessman in Spokane. In between there were some quiet return trips to visit old friends and haunts in Wyoming and Utah.

The author, with the invaluable help of Cassidy's autobiography, has pieced together the full and final story of the remarkable outlaw—from his Utah Mormon origins, through his escapades of banditry and his escape to South America, to his self-rehabilitation as William T. Phillips, a productive and respected member of society.

Go Forth, Be Strong: Advice and Reflections From Commencement Speakers (Southern Illinois University Press, P.O. Box 3697, Carbondale, Illinois, 62901, \$12.50) burys forever the notion that by their very nature graduation speeches must be dull pieces of hack work enervated by platitudes.

This book was edited by Francis H. Horn, and it contains twenty-seven speeches by the twenty-five educators delivered during the decade from the Berkeley student riots of 1964 to the economic recession of the mid-1970s. These men and women have seen war on campus, then apathy. And they have viewed it from the top. With grade and eloquence, they have provided a unique and enduring social history of a time of turmoil. They have condensed years of experience, of pondering the human condition, of working with the university community into succinct, profound statements of twenty to thirty minutes duration.

The university presidents represented here are men and women of the world as well as of the campus. They influence events, and their opinions shape other opinions. All of these intellectual leaders, as part of their jobs, have been compelled to speak out on national and international issues. One function of this book is to make sure that these important statements do not perish on the campus of origin.

Certainly, in these addresses there is the traditional exhortation to the graduates to somehow find the wisdom, will, and courage to conquer insurmountable problems, yet it is an exhortation delivered in good faith. These are not weary, cynical men and women speaking the lines required by their audience. They speak from a sincere conviction that ultimately human beings can make this a better world. And they expressed this faith, President Horn emphasizes, during a critical period when the college generations were under attack for their beliefs and actions. Their speeches might serve as models for those planning similar addresses and for students and teachers in speech courses.

From Indian Springs to the River Jordan, written by Traylor Russell and Robert T. Russell and published by the authors (P.O. Box 1135, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, 75455, \$10.75), is two kinds of book in one. The various chapters may be approached as individual short stories, but the entire book may also be read from front to back as a novel. They leave it to the reader to decide. Although written in fictional form, its contents are based on historical personages and events. It concerns life in northeast Texas during the years surrounding the nation's Centennial celebration. Pegley Jones and Doc Taliaferro are some of the characters discussed.

Cowboy Alphabet and *Prairie Christmas* (Shoal Creek Publishers, P.O. Box 9737, Austin, Texas, 78766, \$6.95 each), written by James Rice, are excellently illustrated and written. They are children's books, but they appeal to the child in all of us. Rice is a well-known illustrator, painter, and sculptor. The lore of the Southwest is presented for young readers.

Early Days in Texas and Rains County (Reprinted by The Lost & Found, 1202 Oriole, Garland, Texas, 75042, \$3.65), by W.O. Hebison of Emory, was first published in 1917. The original is scarce, hence this republication of the fifty-page volume. It is interesting local history.